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A
 TRUE and PERFECT
 NARRATIVE
 OF THE
 Strange and Unexpected Finding the
Crucifix & Gold-Chain
 OF
 That Pious Prince, St. **Edward**
 The **King and Confessor**,
 Which was found after 620 Years Interment :
 AND
 Presented to His Most Sacred Ma-
 jesty, King **JAMES the Second.**

By **Charles Taylour, Gent.** This is only infirid orane
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L O N D O N,

Printed by **J. B.** and are to be Sold by **Randal Taylor**, near
 Stationers Hall, 1688.

quotes himself in pag. 14.

TRY AND PERRON
EVITARYAN

THE HISTORY OF
THE LITERATURE OF
CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY F. B. PERRON
AND
S. J. GARNETT



WITH A HISTORY OF THE LITERATURE OF
THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND

AND
AN APPENDIX

DEDICATED TO THE FRIENDS OF
LIBERTY, KING & COUNTRY, AND
THEIR FRIENDS

BY THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY, CANTERBURY.

1810.
PRINTED FOR THE FRIENDS OF LIBERTY, KING & COUNTRY,
BY J. B. BODEN, 1810.

To the Kings Most Excellent
Majesty.

Dread Sir,

Next to my Fathers Serving your
Most Sacred Majesties Royal
Father of Glorious Memory,
in the quality of Cornet of Horse in
Sr William Courtneys Regiment,
in all his Wars against his Enemies,
and breeding up his Children in
Principles of Unshaken Loyalty. I
cannot but esteem it a great part of
my good Fortune to have been made
the happy Instrument of preserving so
Holy and Sacred a Treasure, as the
Crucifix and Gold-Chain of St.
Edward the Confessor seem to be:
And the having an Opportunity of lay-
ing

ing them at your Majesties feet. And whereas your Majesty was then pleased to accept the same with some kind of satisfaction, so I humbly beseech your most Sacred Majesty to pardon this presumption of giving your Majesty the trouble of a further account of that Action, then at that present I could recollect or call to mind, and that the Memory thereof may not be lost to Posterity; which is the humble request of,

Your Majesties
Most Faithfull,
Obedient, and
Loyal Subject,
and Servant,
Charles Taylour.

TRUE and PERFECT
NARRATIVE

Of the Strange and Unexpected
finding the Crucifix and Gold-Chain
of St. Edward the King and Con-
fessor, &c.

SO many and so various have been the Relations and Reports, concerning the finding and disposing of the Crucifix and Gold-Chain of St. Edward the King and Confessor, and those so fabulous and uncertain withall ; That in Honour to Truth, to disabuse the misinform'd World, and to satisfy the curiosity as well as importunity of my Friends, I think my self under an Obligation

Obligation to set forth this plain Narrative of the matter of Fact, from whom all others (tho' never so Erroneous) pretend to have it. In order thereunto (to avoid confusion, prolixity, and what is worse, Tedious Preambles, and digressions) I shall take this short Method to perform it.

In the first place, I shall give an account of some things previous (or what went before) in order to the discovery.

Secondly, the description of the place it self from whence these things were taken.

Thirdly, the manner of finding and securing the same, the disposing thereof, and presenting them to his present Majesty.

Fourthly, an Exact description of the said **Crucifix** and **Chain** with other dependencies thereon.

And lastly, Some material Remarks, and Historical Observations on the whole. For the first, you are to understand that behind the High-Altar or back of the Communion-Table, in the *Abby Church* of St. Peters-Westminster there are two doors, one on the right and

and the other on the left hand, and both leading into a small Chappel, Dedicated to St. **Ed-**
ward the King and Confessor, and till this day known by that name, tho' sometimes (by reason many Kings and Queens of this Realm have been Inter'd therein) call'd *the Chappel of the Kings*. Into this Chappel and thorough one of those doors it is that when the Solemnity of our Kings and Queens *Inaugurations or Coronations* are perform'd in this Church, that they withdraw after the Unction, Benediction, and other Ceremonies are passed at the High-Altar, where they not only repose themselves for a time, but are dismantled of their former Princely Robes and Accou-
 ments, to be re-invested with more Noble, more Stately, and those of greater Grandeur and Magnificence : *The Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, the Lord High-Chamberlain of England, and the Dean of Westminster* officiating ; on which occasion several Boards, Scaffolding, Traverses, Tables, and other cumbersome materials are there set up, covered and adorned with costly Tapestry and other rich furniture ;

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All which (as heretofore) was likewise performed at the Solemn and Happy Coronation of our Royal Sovereign his present Majesty, *King James the Second*, and his most excellent Consort our Gracious *Queen Mary*, whom God grant long and happily to Reign here, and Eternally in Glory hereafter.

In the midst of the aforesaid **Chappel of St. Edward** there is a very lofty and Noble Tomb still remaining, built after the manner of a Shrine, and for which intent it was erected by King *Henry the Third*. The Base (placed on a very curious floor, inlade with all sorts of fine coloured Agats and Marbles) raises it self about six or Seven foot from the Pavement, supported at each corner by twisted or Serpentine Pillars, and the whole Composure of *Mosaick Work*. (Tho' of late much injured and defaced by picking out the coloured Glass and Stones) On the North and South-side hereof are three Niches or Arches, with one at the East-end, so ordered and contrived that the Sick and Infirm might here repose without offence

offence or injury to each other : On this, as a pedestal, (for it is solid throughout) is a more Sumptuous *Cabinet or Repository* made of Wainscot hollow within, (and formerly covered with plates of Gold and Silver without) but at present nothing remains but the *Wooden-frame or Casket* only. Within this Hollow place or Caverne, then it was that I have often observed (by the help of a Ladder) something resembling a *Coffin* made of sound, firm, and strong Wood, and bound about with bands of Iron, and during the Eighteen years I have belonged to the Quire of this Church, it was a common Tradition among us that therein were deposited the Body or Remains of Holy King **Edward the Confessor**.

Now it happen'd not long after the Coronation of their Present Majesties, that the aforesaid *Coffin or Chest* was found to be broke, and an hole made upon the upper Lid thereof, over against the Right Breast, about six Inches long and four broad, some esteeming it an Accident, thro' the Carelessness and Neglect of the Work-

men in removing the Scaffolds) others thought it done out of Design ; but be it the one or the other, thus it continued for almost seven Weeks, and often viewed by divers of the Church before it was my good Fortune to go thither ; when (on *St. Barnaby's Day*, In the Year of our Lords Incarnation *One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty and Five*) I met with two Friends, (between Eleven and Twelve of the Clock after Morning Service) who told me they were going to see the Tombs, so I went along with them, Informing them that there was a Report that the *Coffin* of St. **Edward the King and Confessor** was broke ; and coming to the place, I was desirous to be satisfied of the Truth thereof : In order thereunto, I fetched a Ladder, looke upon the *Coffin*, and found all things answerable to the Report ; And putting my hand into the hole, and turning the Bones (which I felt there) I drew from underneath the Shoulder-Bones a **Crucifix** richly adorned and enamelled, and a **Gold Chain** of four and twenty Inches long, unto which it was affixed, the which I immediately shew'd

to

to my two Friends, they being as much surprized and equally admired the same as my self. But I was afraid to take them away with me, 'till such time I had acquainted the *Dean*, as the *Governour* and Chief *Director* of our *Church*; And thereupon I put them into the *Coffin* again, with a full Resolution to inform him. But the *Dean* not being to be spoke with at that time, and fearing this *Holy Treasure* might be taken thence by some other Persons, and so concealed by converting it to their own use, I went (about two or three hours after) to one of the *Quire*, and acquainted him with what I had found, who immediately accompanied me back to the *Monument*, and from whence I again drew the aforesaid *Crucifix and Chain* and shew'd them him who beheld them with admiration; presently advising me to keep them 'till I should gain an opportunity to shew them to the *Bishop of Rochester* our *Dean*; so I kept them for the space of three Weeks and five days, as having no opportunity in all that time to speak with him; by reason of his uncertain

uncertain residence, being often in the Country, and when in Town so taken up with the affairs of Parliament that I was not willing to disturb him; in the mean time, hearing that his Grace *John* (late *Lord Arch Bishop of York*, and my ever honoured good Lord) was come to Town, I went to pay my Duty and Respects to him and shew'd him the *Crucifix and Chain*, who looked upon them as *great pieces of Antiquity*, (for so he was pleased to call them) shewing them with admiration to the rest of his Family, and ordered me to wait upon him the next Morning, for he designed that I should go along with him to *Lambeth house*, that his Grace of *Canterbury* might have a sight thereof. Accordingly my *Lord Arch-Bishop of York* carried me thither, and when I had produced them, and his Grace had well viewed and perused them, he express'd the like conceptions of them as my *Lord of York* had done before, *Viz.* That the whole was a very *great piece of Antiquity*. After this (having these things so long by me) I procured an able Master

Doben

Sancroft

Master in Drawing and Limning, to take an exact draught thereof, according to the full dimentions with the Reverse, Figures, and other adornments, the which I have now by me. About the same time that Industrious and Judicious Antiquary Sir William Dugdale, *Late Garter Principal King at Arms*, was pleased to give me a visit, and told me how his Grace the *Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury* had inform'd him of a great Rarity I had in my possession, and named it, desiring moreover that he might have a sight thereof, with whose request I willingly complied, telling me likewise that he would make some re-
marques thereon.

On the *Sixth day of July* following, My *Lord Bishop of Rochester, and Dean of West-minster*, dining at his Grace the *Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury's*; His Grace was pleased to declare to his *Lordship* what he had seen, concerning these Things, and to inform him how they were still in my Possession, so that upon his *Lordships* return to the *Abby* that afternoon *about four of the Clock*, I was sent for,

for, who immmediately took me along with him to *Whitehall*, that I might present this *Sacred Treasure* to the *King*; and being no sooner introduced into his Majesties Closet, (where I had the Honour to Kiss his Royal Hand) but upon my knees I delivered them with my own hands to him, which his Most Sacred Majesty was pleased to accept with much Satisfaction, and having given him a further account how the remains of the body of that Holy King was, and opened the *Cross* in his presence, I withdrew, leaving them safe as being now in his Royal possession.

At the time, when I took out of the Coffin the aforesaid *Cross and Chain*, I drew the Head to the hole, and view'd it, being very sound and firm, with the upper and nether Jaws whole and full of Teeth, with a list of Gold above an Inch broad in the nature of a Coronet, surrounding the Temples: There was also in the Coffin white-Linnen, and Gold-colour'd flowr'd-silk, that lookt indifferent fresh, but the least streis put

put thereto shew'd it was well nigh perish'd; There were all his Bones, and much dust likewise, all which I left as I found, taking only thence along with me the *Crucifix* and *Gold-Chain*. His Majesty was pleased soon after this discovery, to send to the *Abby*, to take care that no damage were done to the Coffin, and ordered it to be inclosed in a new one, of an Extraordinary strength and goodness, each planck being two Inches thick, and joyn'd together with large Iron wedges, where it now remains as a Testimony of his Pious Care that no abuse might be offered to those Sacred Ashes.

To set forth these Things in their proper colours, and to describe the same, so that the Eye of the mind may be brought down to have a just apprehension of them, I will not, with my weak Judgment, pretend to undertake: Yet having them so long in my possession, and viewing them so often with delight, I will endeavour what I can to give you the description of them. For the *Chain*, it was four and twenty Inches long, compleat, all of

pure Gold, the Links oblong, and *Curiously wrought*: The upper part whereof (no lye in the Nape of the Neck) was joyned together by a Docket, Composed of a large round Nodd of Gold, Massy, and in Circumference as big as a Mild-shilling, and half an Inch thick: Round this went a Wyer, and on the Wyer about half a dozen little Beads, hanging loose, and running too and again, on the same, all of pure Gold, and finely wrought. On each side of the Lockett were set two large square red Stones (supposed to be Rubies.) From each side of this Lockett, fixed to two Rings of Gold, the Chain descends, and meeting below, passes thro' a square piece of Gold of a convenient bigness, made hollow for the same purpose: This Gold wrought into several Angles, was painted with divers Colours, resembling so many Gemmes or pretious Stones, and to which the Crucifix was joyned, yet to be taken off (by the help of a Screw) at pleasure. For the Form of the Cross, is no more nighest to that of an *H*-sharpe story among the Heralds, or rather

the

the Botany, yet the pieces here are not of equal length, the direct or perpendicular beam being nigh one fourth part longer than the traverse, as being four Inches to the extremities, whilst the other scarce exceeds Three: yet all of them neatly turn'd at the ends, and the **Botons** Enamelled with Figures thereon. The **Cross** it self is of the same Gold with the **Chain**, but then it exceeds it by its rich Enamell, having on one side the Picture of our Saviour Jesus Christ in his Passion wrought thereon, and an eye from above casting a kind of beams upon him: whilst on the reverse of the same Cross is Pictured a Benedictine Monk in his habit, and on each side of him these Capital Roman Letters: on the right limb thus, **A** And on the left thus, **W** And on the top thus, **C** And on the bottom thus, **H** This

This **Cross** is hollow; and to be opened by two little Screws towards the top; wherein it is presumed some Relique might have been conserved. The whole being a piece not only of great Antiquity, but of admirable Curiosity. And I look upon this Accident as a great part of my good Fortune, to be made the mean Instrument of their discovery and preservation. For **Remarques** upon the foregoing relation I shall offer but two to your consideration: First, some Observations concerning the time when these **Holy Things** were first found, and when delivered to his present **Majesty**. And Secondly, how this discovery agrees with **Antiquity** and those who have writ concerning the **Deposition, Interment, and Translation of this Saint's Body**, together with the reasons of his **Canonization**, and rebuilding the **Monastery and Abby-Church of St. Peters-Westminster**. For which last Observations, I must here own my self indebted to my very worthy Friend **Mr. Hen. Keepe**, who was pleased to favour me so far.

far as to oblige me with this short abstract from his large *History of this Abby's Mémoires.*

For the first it is highly remarkable, that it should happen on that day whereon the *late Rebellion began in the West*, and much about the *Same Hour* in the afternoon when they landed, that I secured them, being on the *Eleventh day of June, and Thursday in Whitson week.* But much more observable were the delivery of them to his *Majesty*; it being at a time, and on a day when all people stood in suspence how that great point would be decided, when (as a most happy Omen and Forerunner of the *Good News* which came within few hours after, that his *Majesty's Forces* had gain'd an entire victory over his *Enemies*) I humbly presented the same to his *most Sacred Majesty*, being on the *Sixth day of July* following: notwithstanding I had endeavoured to have done it before; but through several unexpected interruptions, was disappointed of my intent till then: So that Heaven seems more to have had the conduct thereof

tho'c of then bare chance or casualty.

As for this Holy, and Religious King Edward the Confessor, he was the Seventh Son of King *Etbeldred*, by *Emma* his Second Wife, Daughter of *Richard* the Second, Duke of Normandy: And during the Invasion and Possession of this Land, by the Cruel and Inhumane Danes, he together with his Brethren were conveighed by their Mother into Normandy, and there remain'd until their

Mat. West.
Hor. Hist.
p. 302.

Tyranny and Oppression were over-passed: During which space (all his Elder Brothers being dead, and the Danes at length utterly destroy'd or expell'd the Kingdom.) He was by the Unanimous and Joynt consent of the Nobility and Gentry of this Realm sent for, and Proclaimed their Lawfull King, and Governor, suitable to the many Prophesies and Revelations declared heretofore concerning him.

Hen. Hun-
tingd. Hist.
Lib. 4.

Coming therefore (according to the Exigence of the times) but with a small Retinue into England, he was Crown'd at West minister, as some Authors have it (tho' others say it Ingulph. Hist.
p. 661.
Jo. Brompton
Chro. p. 955. was at Winchester) by *Eadfrid*, Arch-Bishop

Bishop of Canterbury, and *Alfric Arch-* Mat. West.
Bishop of York, on Easter-day following, Flor. Hist.
 in the Year of our Lord God, One Thousand Flor. Wigorn.
Forty and Three; Granting unto the said *Abbey* Gul. Malmbs.
 of *Westminster*, that from thenceforth when-
 soever himself, or any of his Successors, *Kings*
 of *England*, should wear their *Royal Diadems*,
 in that Church, than the *Precentor* of the same,
 should receive, at the hands of the *Kings Sher-*
 riffs, half a *Mark* of *Silver*, and the *Covent*
 One hundred *Simnels*, or *Wastel-Cakes* of
 the *finest Flower*, together with *Sixty four*
Gallons of the *best Wine*, in commemoration
 thereof.

The King being thus placed on the Throne
 of his Ancestors in Peace, and recollecting
 what had passed in his former Exile, Two
 things more especially offered themselves to
 his consideration. First, how those Vows and
 Promises he had then made in case of his Re-
 surrection, might be performed to his Satisfac-
 tion; And Secondly, how such wholesome
 and binding *Law* might be *Instituted*, as not
 only to secure the Freedom and Tranquillity
 of

of his Subjects during his own time, but to future Ages. The last of these he committed to the care and prudence of his great Council, to see Effected, which were so happily accomplished, that even to this day they bear the name of **St Edwards Laws**; The basis and foundation whereon all our other Laws depend, and which the Princes of this Realm in their *Coronation-Oaths* oblige themselves to observe: As to his *Vows* some had respect to the publique, others more immediately related to himself. For what belonged to himself he presently performed upon his first ascending the Throne; But what concerned the Publique, took up farther time of deliberation; among the rest he had Solemnly undertaken, that as soon as he had settled his Kingdom in peace, to *Visit the Holy See*, to go to *Rome*, to perform some set devotions at the stations in that City, and there to repose himself for a time. But this was found a matter of that Consequence (that notwithstanding his whole inclination and fixt resolution to effect it) yet at length he was over-perswaded

186.

Aldred Abbas
Rievaulx de
vita S. Edw.
& Mirac.
Gu. Lombard
de prisca
Angl. legibus
edit. per A.
Whelock. p.
Hen. Spelman
Concil. Tom.
I. p. 619.

Suaded by the entreaties of the Nobility, and
 Tears of his People to decline it, at least
 'till such time they might send to the then
Bishop of Rome such Persons of Worth and
 Learning that might lay the Case, with all
 the Inconveniences seriously before him, and
 to have his Resolution thereon: which was
 done; and that with such cogent Reasons,
 and convincing Arguments, that the designed
 Journey was *Dispensed with*: Yet in liet
 thereof, he was enjoined to bestow what
 Money he had laid up towards the Expence
 of that Voyage on the Poor, Miserable and
 Indigent; And moreover has a further Re-
 membrance thereof, to Erect some New, or
 Repair some Old Church and Monastery to the
 Honour of St. Peter. All which the King
 most readily embraced, and immediately
 pitch'd upon the Restoring of the **Monaster-
 ty and Church of St. Peters West-
 minster**. In Order thereunto he decimated
 all his Revenues, set Workmen to pull down the
 Old, and to erect a *New Church* (even
 from the Ground) in place thereof; re-
 paired

Nicol. Harps
 fields Hist.
 Angl. Eccles,
 Pag. 218.

Cef. Baron.
 Anhal. Eccles.
 Tom. 11. p.
 290. N. 9.

paired the Offices of the Ruined *Abby*, filled the same with *Monks*, and settled a competent Revenue to sustain them. But see the instability of Humane Affairs ! No sooner was this Work brought to perfection, and *the day of Holy Innocents in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Sixty and Six*, prefixed for the Solemn Dedication of the Church ; But the King fell sick on *Christmas-Day* preceding, and growing worse and worse, on the day following he was scarce able to stay out the Solemnity of *High-Mass* ; being led from thence to his Chamber, and taking his Bed, the next day his Life was despaired of ; So that he *made his Will, Received, and prepared himself for his departure* : At the same time bestowing several Gifts and Rewards on certain *Palmers or Pilgrims* that came from far

Joh. Brompton Chron. p. 915. to see him ; And to the *Abbot of Westaminster* delivered *the Ring* (returned him by *St John*) to be perpetually preserved among the Reliques of that Church. The day following, tho' very weak, he did his endeavour to be Assistant at the Pompous Dedication

tion of his New Church; but Nature, now almost spent in him, deprived him of that Satisfaction: So that being in his Bed, he had no more strength left then to Sign his *three Charters of Privileges, Donations, and Confirmations*, which he bestowed thereon. And thus languishing 'till two days after the Circumcision, he fell into a Trance, became Speechless, Motionless, and lying for dead untill the *Eve of the Epiphany* following: when reviving again with the Chief of the Nobility about him, he began to declare what had been revealed to him concerning the future State of the Kingdom during the time of his Extasie; at the end of which Discourse, gently reposing his Head on his Pillow, he expired (after he had Reigned 23 Years, Six Months and 27 Days) to the Sorrowfull Lamentations of those that beheld him, and exceeding grief of all his Subjects, who soon after found his Predictions verified in the dismal effects of War and Bloud-shed, which ensued.

All things are now preparing for his Fu-

Monastic
Angl. Tom. 4.
Chart. 1.
Hen. Spelman
Concl. Tom.
1. pro Chart. 2.
In Archivis
Weft. Chart 3
Mat. Paris p. 3

Hen. Hunt
tingdon Hist.
Lib. 2. p. 347
Mat. Westm
Flo. Hist. p.
220.

Flo. Wigorn
p. 633.
Rog. Hov.
Ann. pars
Prior. p. 439.

Alfred. Abbas neral Rites, the Body washed and Embalmed
 Rievallis de vita & Mirac. with sweet scenting Odors, and Aromatique
 S Edw. Con. Spices; wrapped in White and Precious Lin-
 nen, and those covered with Rich and Costly
 Vestments; a Coronet on his Head, a Crucifix
 on his Breast, and other Regal Ensigns of Ma-
 jesty; all which, together with the Corps,
 were placed in a Stone Coffin, made after
 the Fashion of those Elder Times, hollow
 within, according to the Shape of a Man,
 and Covered with a loose Lidd of the same
 Stone; which the day following his Exit,
 (viz. on the Epiphany or Feast of Kings) was
 Translated to his New Church, and there, ac-
 cording to his Desire before his Departure,
 it was deposited with all the Ceremonies and
 Grandeur suitable to the Quality of the Per-
 son and the Occasion.

As this Holy and Religious Prince had,
 during his Life time, Cured many most Inver-
 terate and Malignant Distempers, especially
 those who had any extraordinary Glandules,
 or hard Swellings in their Necks or Throats;
 so after his Death, People affected with the
 like

Jo. Brompton
 Chroa. p. 950.

like Diseases, coming to his Tomb, several received Benefit thereby. The Fame whereof, drew many to pay a kind of Inferior Devotion to his Memory; Among the rest, that good **Bishop of Worcester** the Pious **Wulstan** was none of the least. And when **William** Surnamed the Conqueror took Possession of this Land, turning about the Old **English** to make way for his New **Normans**, having already made **Lanfranc** his Countryman **Arch-Bishop of Canterbury** in the room of **Stigand**, and still placing some, and displacing others; having the Formality of a **National Synod** to Countenance and Confirm the same. This **Wulstan** was likewise Cited; where it was objected against him, That he was Illiterate, Insufficient, and Unworthy to bear so great and weighty a Charge as that of a Bishop; and withall, that he had misbehaved himself therein; being admonished to resign upon his **Pastoral Staff, and Ring**; and so leave the same to the Kings disposal. **The Good Old Man**, concerned at these Proceedings, took upon

Alred. Abbas
Rieval. ut
supra. p. 402.

debet. secundum
217. in. 1. 2.
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upon him an unusual boldnes, and standing up, acknowledged that he was indeed unworthy so great Honour, unsought, and unlookt for by him; Ayet as for the discharge of his Duty therein, his behaviour had been such that no man with any Honesty or Justice could either tax or blemish; And whereas he had received those Ensigns of his Function from so Knowing and so Glorious a Prince as King Edward, he would deliver them to none but him: And so departing the Council, came to his Masters Tomb, where he deposid his Crosier with the profoundest humility imaginable; expressing his Condition with much vehemency and concern; at last concluding, that it would please Almighty God so to make manifest his Innocence, that That Pastoral Staff might be delivered to none but those who were worthy of it. The Arch-Bishop, and Synod being informed of all that passed, sent immediate-
ly for the Crosier: but he that came for it

Now legend.
 Angl. in vita
 S. Wulstani.
 Lau. surius ad
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 S. Wulstani:
 auct. per Ja-
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 found it immoveable, the Truth wherof
 being suspected, a Learned and Gave
 Bishop,

Bishop, Gurnulfus of Rochester by
 Name, was Deputed to ascertain the Truth,
 which likewise he Confirmed: At which,
 the King, his Nobles, the Popes Legat, the
 Arch-Bishops, and Bishops, with others there
 Assembled, admiring, all came to see the Won-
 der, the Arch-Bishop first attempting to displace
 it, but in vain; and after many fruitless endeav-
 ours of others, ~~Wulstan~~ was entreated by the
 King to attempt it; who no sooner toucht the
 Pastoral Ensign, but it fell as it were of it
 self into his hands. Upon which the King
 with all there present cast themselves at his
 feet, begg'd his excuse for the Injury they
 had done him, and that he would give them
 his Blessing: But the Good old Man, o're-
 come with such Condescension, fell likewise
 on his Knees, embrac'd the King, and the
 rest of the Company, and heartily forgave
 them. This was the occasion that *William*
 the Conqueror ever after bare so great a Ve-
 neration for his Kinsman and Predecessor;
 Insomuch that from thenceforth he Com-
 manded the Coffin to be Inwarded, and that
 Shrine

Nicol. Harps
 field Hist.
 Angl. Eccles
 p. 219.

Shrine to be covered with Plates of Gold and Silver, and further Richly Adorned with Pearls and Precious Stones, which was re-

Alred Abbas
Rieval : de
vita & Mira.
S. Edw. p.
408.

maining entire and undefaced in the time
of Laurentius Abbot of Westminster, about one
hundred Years after. *U. philibba. boldmilla.*

Ibid.
Six and thirty Years after this, when Gilbert
Surname Crispin was Abbot of Westmin-
ster, certain Discourses and Arguments arose
among the Monks, concerning the Corrupta-
bility, or incorruption of this King's Body. So
that to satisfie their Curiosity, the Abbot
was resolved upon an inspection: wherunto
Gimuluis Bishop of Rochester, for-
merly mentioned, and now very Antient,
with other Persons of great Credit and Gra-
vity were invited: And coming with mighty
expectations to the Tomb, the Shrine opened,
and the upper Lidd of the Stone-Coffin re-
moved, such a flagrant Odour proceeded from
thence, that it scented the whole Church, they
beheld the upper Vestments that covered
the Body as fresh as if newly put on: the
Hands, the Arms, the Joints of the Fingers
and

Ibid.

and Toes, as pliant, and Supple, as but lately deprived of Life ; the Flesh retaining a lively and beautifull Vigour as if animated again : But the Face being covered with an extraordinary Covering none would venture to uncover the same, untill the grave Bishop of Rochester undertook it : And beginning below his Beard, which was long, and white as Snow, he proceeded to disclose the whole Visage, which was so shining and of so unusual a brightness, that they were all Struck with admiration ; wherefore with great reverence they cover'd it again; changing the former Vests, and putting on others of equal price ; Incensing the Corps, and laying on the cover, they all departed with great Satisfaction, seeing they found things so suitable to their desires and expectations.

In the Year 1163. *Thomas of Becket* W. Thorn.
(afterwards St. *Thomas*,) Arch-Bishop of Chron. Aug.
Canterbury out of a peculiar devotion to this Cant. p. 2255.
pious Princes memory by the Kings Inter-
cession, and at his own Expence, procured of ^{the Kings} Pope *Alexander the Third* his Canonization, Mat. Paris p. 99, translation
which was Solemnized after this manner. The ^{1st} corpus & 2d

E

Usually the *Cantus* goes
mainly with
Heinrichus qui haec
processioneaverat.

Laur. Series
in vit. S. Ed.
Confess. cum
Add. Limp.
masi.

Usuall Ceremonies having passed at *Rome*, and
the *Apostolick Letters* returned by those who
were sent to procure them ; *Laurentius*,
who was then *Abbot of Westminster*, recei-
ved orders to convocate many reverend and
venerable persons, as well *Bishops*, as *Abbots* ;
Noblemen, as others, to his *Chutch of West-
minster*, and there publicquely to read the said
Letters, or *Breves* to the assembly ; he accord-
ingly performed the same, to the well liking
and rejoicing of all those who were present at
their publication : But for as much as the *Kings*
Affaires detained him at this time in *Normandy*,
and his presence thought extreamly neces-
sary to the consummation of so grand a Cere-
mony as the Translation would be, it was de-
ferred 'till his arrivall in *England* almost two
years after ; unto whom, the *Arch-Bishop* of
Canterbury, the *Abbot of Westminster*,
with some others applying themselves to
know his Royall Pleasure sherein ; *Heatlength*,
wholly left the same to the *Abbot of West-
minster's* disposal, who being desirous (as
Gilbert his predecessor had done) to see in
what

what condition the Sacred Body lay before he would venture to expose it to the publique, called together the *Prior*, with a select number of the *Monks*; who consulting thereon, came to this resolution: that no one should presume to be present at the sight thereof, but those who had beforehand prepared themselves by *Fasting, Weeping and Prayer* for such an occasion, and that they only should meet in the Church on the Eve before the Translation, with *Tapers in their hands, Albs on their Bodies, and their feet to be all Naked and bare*, and from thence to proceed in the *Search according to their desires*, which was done accordingly; the doors being first shut, and all others excluded from coming into the Church at that time, they went by way of Procession, to the Steps of the high Altar, *Singing of Psalms, and reciting the Litanies, with Prayers made on purpose for that Action*. The *Abbot, Prior, and two of the Brethren*, (leaving the rest at their devotions) approached the *Tomb*, and removing the upper Stone of the *Coffin*, they beheld (by the help of their lights) a man, lying in rich *Vestments of Cloth of Gold*, having on his feet *Buskins of* *Purple*,

Purple, and Shoes of great price, his Head and Face were covered with a Rich covering, Interwoven and wrought with Gold, with a Beard White and Long, inclining to Curl, and falling decently on his Breast; which sight struck a profound reverence in the Spectators, who called the rest of their Brethren, whom they had left at the Altar, to behold the same: Their curiosity ended not here, but led them further, so that they began (with great Piety and Devotion) some to touch his Head, others his feet, and some his Hands, which they found *without* any manner of Corruption or Putrefaction. And such was the firmness of this Saint's Body, that all parts seemed to retain their former brightness and perfection; notwithstanding the outward parts of those Vests, which lay next the lid of the Coffin, were a little sullied, and had lost some of their freshness, by the contiguity and molting of the cement and dust of the Stone which had fallen upon them: all which they gently wiped away with a Linnen Cloth, resolving to remove the whole Body from that Stone-repository to another of Wood, which they had there before prepared

prepared for the same purpose : so that some assisting at the Head, others at the Arms and Legs, they lifted it gently from thence, and laid the Sacred Corps first on Tapestry spread on the floor, and then *wrapping the same in divers silken Cloaths of great value*, they put it *into the Wooden Chest*, with all those things that were found in the former, except the *Gold Ring*, which was *on the Kings Finger*, which the Abbot out of devotion retained, and order'd it to be kept in the Treasury of the *Abby*, as a commemoration thereof. The next day, *viz. on the third of the Ides of October*, being Sunday, (and the appointed time for the more solemn translation of this Saints Body) in the Morning Early the *Holy Reliques* were brought into the Quire of the Church, and *publickly exposed* for all those who out of devotion or curioſity should come to see them. *The King himself assisted to support the Coffin*, at the time of Proceſſion, to whom were joyned *Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury, Gilbert Bishop of London, Henry Bishop of Winchester, &c.* with many others ; The concourse of all sorts of people, as well Nobles

L. Surius ut
Supra.
Joh. Fleet. de
fundat. Abb.
West. Ms. in
Bib. Westm.

Nobles, as Artificers and Soldiers, being so great, that the like had not been seen for many years. After the Procession the King with his own hands helpt to deposite the holy Reliques in a Shrine which he had caus'd anew to be made for them, all glittering with Gold and Silver. This day of his Canonization was solemnly kept for some Ages after this, by the Religious of those times, and is not forgot at present by many pious and devout Catholiques, who come annually (on the 13th of October) as they do on that of his deposition (the 5th of January) to perform some part of their Devotions here.

Once more this Sacred Body was removed from it's Old Habitation and Repose, and that was about the Year of Grace, 1226. When King Henry the Third pulled down the Old Church built by this Saint, and Erected a most Stately Edifice in the room thereof : causing a peculiar Chappel likewise to be set apart, and Dedicated to him ; adorning it with several Carvings of Masons work, wherein much of his Story, History of his Life & Miracles, are curiously wrought; some part thereof remaining (on the Architrave

on

on the back-side of the High Altar) at this day. In the midst of this Chappell there was likewise prepared a Noble and Magnificent Shrine, the upper part covered with Plates of fine Gold, so Artificially workt by the hands of the most cunning Goldsmiths, and set about with Precious Stones (all at the Kings cost) that it amounted to an inestimable value: but the under-part (with the curious stoor round about it) was framed by the command, and at the charge of Richard de Ware the then Abbot of Westmister, with a part of those Stones, and by the same Workmen who compos'd the Pavement before the High Altar; and which he brought out of Italy in his way to England, when he came to the Government of this Abby.

The King likewise commanded a Coffin to be made J. Weever:
Fun. Mon. p.
433.
all of pure Gold whereto to inclose anew the Sa- Nicol. Harpe
fields Hist.
Angl. Eccles.
Pag. 437.
cred Reliques. And on the day of their deposi-
tion, or placing them in this rich Feretory, there
was a Solemn Proceſſion, The King in Person be-
ing there with the Chief of the Bifhops, Abbots,
Priors, and other Religious and Clergy who were
then in Town. Moreover, further to grace the
Action,

Action, on that day, the King made a most Royal
& Magnificent Feast at his Palace at Westminster,
 where all comers and goers, as well Rich as Poor,
 were liberally treated or rewarded. Which Royal
 Feast and grand Solemnity was performed in
 the Year of our Lord, 1269.

Mat. Paris.
 p. 1005.

From this very time we have nothing on Record, that takes notice of any other removall or disposall of these *Holy Reliques*: And therefore may conclude, they remained safe and undisturbed untill the days of *King Henry the Eighth*, when we find (*in that general Inundation which swept away all things, Saerod*) this *Noble Fere-tory* stript of all its costly furniture, and the Body of its *Golden-Case*, to be meanly inclosed in a coarse Wooden Coffin; the same I presume I lately saw, and from whence I drew the so often-mentioned **Crucifix and Gold-Chain.**

F I N I S.

